

MATTHEWS VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 3, 2017

Minutes

Chairman Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Moment of Reflection was given by Ed Dement. Gregg Smith made a motion that this MVAC meeting be held in memory of Sergeant Robert L. Smith, US Air Force, serving from 1949-1957. SGT Smith was from Pineville. The motion accepted by acclamation.

Committee Members present: Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Terry Price, Gregg Smith, Nobie Thrasher, Amanda Kohout, Larry Stawicki, Kathleen Wilsbach, Ed Dement, Fred Baylor, Dessi Dufresne, and Joe Bochicchio

Guests welcomed: Prospective members Ilse York and Nate Huggins

Minutes of April 5, 2017. The minutes were approved as transmitted.

Old Business:

1. According to our Bylaws, Fisk announced that Officer Elections will be held in June. Our ToM staff liaison, Rad Pate, will hold the slate in his office at Town Hall. Anyone interested may present his/her name to Rad prior to our June 7th meeting.

2. Subcommittee 1.

a. Tom Cannon and committee developed a budget for SC#1. A deadline for subcommittee budgets is May 12th. These requested budgets all will be compiled and submitted to the ToM for fiscal year starting in July

b. Tom gave a power point briefing about MVAC to ToM department heads on April 25th.

3. Subcommittee 2.

a. Fisk asked for a factual list of local business leaders and other individuals be submitted on a MVAC Member Connections list and passed back to him.

b. Vietnam Exhibit discussed with the following details:

(1) Amanda's husband Tom will design the flyer.

(2) Amanda forwarded a sign-up sheet via ToM email for MVAC volunteers to monitor the exhibit at the ToM Community Center from Saturday, May 20th through Monday, May 29th. This list was passed for additional help for open slots.

(3) Fisk said the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) would provide the bulk of the exhibit that honors Vietnam veterans, along with co-sponsor American Legion Post 235 adding additional materials and monitors. Gary Aljets (MOAA) has responsibility of returning MOAA exhibit.

(4) Dessi said flyers would be distributed at the monthly Chamber Meeting and distributed throughout town outlets, Mecklenburg County Veterans and MOAA. Fifty poster-sized boards will be distributed to businesses.

(5) Obie said he would contact Diana Rugg of WCNC TV Channel 9. and Wilson's World at WCCB. Nat Huggins said he would contact local newspapers.

(6) Fisk will send an invitation to the Town Council and Mayor.

(7) Tom Cannon announced that US Congressman Robert Pittenger will be visiting the exhibit on Memorial Day at 12:30 p.m.

c. MVAC Introductory Breakfast with Local Veterans 6/17/17. Ed Dement said a flyer would be ready soon and asked for MVAC volunteers. Larry suggested that the event be sent to the *Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly* and Rad said he would advise the new ToM Communications Coordinator, Maureen Keith to promote the event with the local news outlets. Fred Baylor reviewed the event and an event outline was passed to all present with information as follows:

(1) Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. at the MMMBC Fellowship Hall with MVAC members meeting and greeting veterans.

(2) A brief overview of MVAC by Chairman, Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of guests followed by an invocation.

(3) During breakfast an introduction of MVAC members and committees outlining MVAC goals followed by a Q & A.

(4) Closing at 10:55 a.m. singing "God Bless the USA" and adjournment with a benediction by Rev. Whitley.

d. Amanda will coordinate with Maureen Keith on a MVAC Facebook page. Amanda needs copies of past MVAC minutes to post on ToM website. Kathleen will provide those to Amanda.

4. Subcommittee 3. Subcommittee Chairman John Ramseur submitted his resignation to Chairman Fisk Outwater on April 28, 2017. John cited his new responsibilities at his church heading up a marriage ministry that will take up much of his free time. Dessi Dufresne has agreed to chair the subcommittee. She was asked to prepare a budget for MVAC informational signs.

5. Subcommittee 4. Gregg Smith reported that SC#4 has completed a compilation from the NC4Vets magazine.

6. Prospective Members. Ilse York and Nate Huggins were reintroduced to MVAC. Ilse, who moved from Missouri, has extensive veteran event experience and worked with NATO. Nate, a former Major in the Army served 11 years. Nate is the CEO of Blessed Assurance Adult Day Care and former Matthews Chamber president. Ed Dement made a motion to accept both candidates as MVAC members and Gregg Smith seconded. The motion was accepted by acclamation.

New Business:

1. Fisk delivered a MVAC Executive Summary to the ToM Board of Commissioners on April 17th. A copy of this summary was provided to all members. The summary included the MVAC accomplishment to date and goals for the upcoming year. In 30 days he will revisit the proposed Signature Event to the Commissioners.
2. Fisk asked that each subcommittee be responsible for two guest speakers at our monthly MVAC meeting. The MVAC executive board will be responsible for two also. Janene McGee, the Mecklenburg County Community Veterans Support Division Director, will be the guest speaker for the June 7th meeting.
3. Fisk will assign subcommittee #1 to review/update the MVAC Bylaws and SOPs by the second meeting of the second quarter of 2018. MVAC membership roster update is forthcoming.
4. Staff Liaison comments. A question was raised regarding honor flights for veterans. Rad stated that there is no money in ToM budget to support the honor flights. In the past, the Rotary funded this program according to Ed Dement. The cost was \$2000 per vet and the focus was on Korean war vets.

Open Comments:

1. Dessi presented the program “Pints for Patriots” supporting the single cause of helping NC veterans and their families. Seaboard Taproom, owned by Rob Jacik, will host this program featuring vet owned breweries on May 20th. Dessi invited MVAC to “man” a table at the event to talk with participants and hand out information about MVAC. Fisk volunteered to help Dessi with this pursuit. Dessi also announced the motorcycle “Ride for Vets” on Sunday, May 28th starting and ending at the Matthews Sportsplex.
2. Nobie talked about the NC USO fundraiser sponsored by Harris Teeter stores and an upcoming USO 7.5k fun run.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:
Kathleen Wilsbach, Secretary